

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SUBJECT Estimate of Food Situation in
Russian Zone for 1949

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The economic plan provides for a daily food ration minimum of 1800 calories per capita by the end of 1949. This will mean a further improvement of rations for the year 1949. The average caloric value of food issued to individual ration-card holders amounted to

1415	calories	in	1946
1500	"	"	1947
1720	"	"	1948

2. The goal for 1949 is 1828 calories. This figure does not include vegetables, fruit, and other unrationed food items. At this moment, it cannot be estimated whether it will be possible also to issue 1800 calories of food to the lowest group of ration-card holders. The present food plan for 1949 allows a maximum of only 1677 calories for ration-card holders of group 4; this does not include fresh fruit and vegetables. Previous issues to group 4 amounted to

1255	calories	in	1946
1331	"	"	1947
1518	"	"	1948

3. Whether or not the attempts to increase rations will be successful, will depend not only on the fulfilment of requisition quotas but also on the possibility of obtaining additional food through "free trade". Another important factor will be the amount of export business the Soviet Zone is able to procure, as this in turn will determine the quantity of food that can be imported.
4. The experience of the past few years has shown that food requisition quotas can be fulfilled, and it may therefore be safely assumed that this part of the food provision plan for 1949 is assured. The figures of food deliveries as compared to the quotas prescribed for the years indicated serve to prove the above statements. Figures given for 1948 are for the period 1 January to 30 November.

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25X1A2g

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

<u>Item</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Actual Delivery</u>
Grain	1947	2,340,000 tons	2,270,000 tons
	1948	2,470,000 tons	2,500,000 tons
		(incl. return of loans)	
	1949	2,270,000 tons	
Oil Seeds	1947	44,265 tons	50,367 tons
	1948	53,560 tons	62,890 tons
	1949	57,000 tons	

The figures of actual oil-seed deliveries in 1947 include those of a considerable backlog carried over from 1946, while the 1948 result (as of 30 November 1948) of over 62,000 tons was obtained thanks to an excellent harvest.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Actual Delivery</u>
Potatoes	1947	3,672,900 tons	3,782,760 tons
	1948	4,476,534 tons	4,455,188 tons
		(incl. return of loans)	
	1949	3,920,000 tons	probably according to plan
Livestock	1947	222,888 tons	271,241 tons
	1948	196,170 tons	191,033 tons
	1949	205,000 tons	

Figures represented in the livestock quota did not include any "free market" purchase plans.

Milk	1947	1,338,655 tons	1,332,477 tons
	1948	1,123,200 tons	1,109,326 tons
	1949	1,300,000 tons	
Eggs	1947	204,901,000	200,552,500
	1948	190,000,000	187,486,300
	1949	280,000,000	

5. In the past, the "free market" has contributed only limited additional quantities to the food supply of the population. Efforts will be made to increase the possibilities of "free" purchasing during 1949. Up to 30 November 1948, the following quantities were provided through the "free" purchasing system:

Wheat	7,346 tons
Legumes	338 tons
Potatoes	153,411 tons
Oil seeds	1,042 tons
Milk	62,633 tons
Livestock	1,611 tons
Eggs	1,088,500

6. During the second half of 1948, it was possible to improve fat rations to such an extent that the custom of replacing fat with sugar could be abandoned as of 1 October 1948. The plan for 1949 provides for the exclusive issue of fat products (like butter, margarine, and animal fats) on fat ration coupons. According to estimates, fulfilment of this plan for 1949 will be possible if the fat ration per capita remains at its present level.
7. On the other hand, any increase of individual rations will necessitate corresponding imports. E.g., were fat rations to be increased by 5 g. per capita per day for card groups I/4, II/3, and II/4, an additional total of 12,865 tons of fat per year would have to be provided. In order to achieve this goal, it would be necessary to import 11,500 tons during the second and third quarters because otherwise there would not be enough supplies on hand in the zone during that period to cover the

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g

- 3 -

increased rations. If imports should be realized as outlined above, a balance of 7,000 tons would be available by the end of the year. The question whether it will be possible to reach the 1949 goal of 1828 calories per capita during the first few months or whether it will be necessary to postpone the increase to the end of the year, depends, therefore, on these fat imports.

8. This calorie minimum also requires the following ration increases:


Sugar	An increase of 5 grams per capita per day for each member of ration groups I/3, I/4, II/3, and II/4. The result would be a uniform issue of 25 grams to all ration-card holders.
Cereals	(Oatmeal, farina, rice, and similar products): An increase of 10 grams per capita for groups I/4 and II/4.
Bread	An increase of 50 grams per capita in group I/4.

An increase of rations of the above three items could be achieved by 1 February 1949.

9. In order to attain the 1828 calorie minimum, an additional increase of potato rations for card groups 1 to 4 and 5d in categories II and I will be necessary. Such an increase, which will have to amount to 100 grams per capita, can be granted without hesitation by 1 October 1949.
10. There will be no improvement of the meat ration situation during 1949. Fish, eggs, and skimmed-milk cheese or cottage cheese will still have to serve as substitutes. Attempts will be made to eliminate cottage cheese as a substitute product, starting 1 October 1949. The possibility of assuring the full issue due on meat ration cards depends largely on the question whether the necessary fish imports will arrive. The minimum quantity that must be imported will have to equal 37,000 tons of meat; i.e., if such imports should consist of fish, the quantity to be imported would have to be increased in order to equal the caloric value of meat. The year 1948 proved to be disappointing as far as fish imports were concerned. It is therefore important to make reliable trade agreements ahead of time and at the same time to order quantities that exceed the minimum in order to prevent any possible bottleneck. At the moment trade negotiations for more than 33,000 tons of fish are under way.
11. The greater part of food has to be processed in various industries before being issued to the population. Exceptions are potatoes, eggs, and such fruits and vegetables as are eaten fresh. The production plan of the food industries, therefore, plays an important part in the over-all food supply plan. The 1949 plan of the food industries provides for a substantial production increase, as follows:

Flour	an increase of 14%
Cereals	" " " 12%
Noodles and similar products	" " " 8%
Meat	" " " 16%
Animal fats	" " " 87%
Vegetable oils, raw	" " " 62%
Margarine	" " " 60%
Butter	" " " 39%
White sugar	" " " 20%

This increase will, however, not show a steadily rising curve, but will vary during the individual quarters of the year. The production of animal fats, for instance, will show a marked increase from 10,000 tons in 1948 to 18,700 tons in 1949; but this increase will not take place until well towards the end of the year.

~~SECRET~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~25X1A2g


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 4 -

12. Expressed in marks, this increase of production in the food industry will be from 2.3 billion marks in 1948 to 2.9 billion in 1949, or 26%. The share of state-owned industries in these production totals was 35% in 1948 and will rise to 40% in 1949.
13. The planned production increase can be assured, provided that the necessary raw materials are available. Past years have proved that prospects in this respect are excellent. In 1947, the food production industry fulfilled the production plan up to 106%. By the end of November 1948 some 90.3% of that year's production plan had been reached. Production of the following food products show fulfilment of over 100% in 1948:

White sugar	115%
Butter	101%
Margarine	114%

The increase in sugar production is especially important. While the plan called for 510,000 tons, the final output will be almost 600,000 tons. This will assure the aforementioned increase of the individual sugar ration.

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